

# 1. Hunter or Farmer?

age in many other activities besides  
land known as Sumer, and they  
3. A civilization arose.

100 years later. The land of Sumer  
pire. The center of this empire was  
gs were decorated with hanging gar-  
that, for the first time, all the tradi-  
re to be written down and followed  
the people would know what was  
com their rulers.

in India, early in this century.  
e remains of past civilizations) are  
ety that existed in India some 4,000  
s about this Indus Valley civilization,  
to this day.

North Africa during one of the great-  
some 3,500 years ago. A rich and  
gypt for 1,500 years before our story  
gypt's most unusual rulers—the only  
woman. She tells what she had to do  
fter she had it.

Asia, almost 3,300 years ago. The  
ina, had been in power for several  
shed many things. The narrator of  
In ruling his empire, he used a mix-  
and a belief in the power of written  
ers and to foretell the future.

Humanlike creatures have existed on the earth for millions of years. Fossils of the oldest human ancestors have recently been discovered in Africa. These apelike creatures lived over 4.4 million years ago. Earlier, also in Africa, scientists found the footprints and physical remains of beings that walked upright over 3.5 million years ago. Some 2.5 million years ago, humanlike creatures made the first known stone tools. These people had larger brains than any previously known human ancestors.

No one knows exactly when modern humans first appeared on the earth. Intelligent beings known as Neanderthals (named for the place in Germany where their remains were first found) appeared about 200,000 years ago. The Neanderthals were short, heavyset, had short arms and legs, and walked with a forward-leaning gait. They made tools of stone and blades of flint. The Neanderthals probably believed in an afterlife, since they buried food and tools with their dead.

Some scientists believe that our first truly human ancestors originated in Africa between 250,000 and 165,000 years ago. (Others dispute the date but not the place.) Some of these human ancestors probably left Africa about 115,000 years ago and began a slow migration across the earth. The best-known of these prehistoric people were the Cro-Magnons, who were named for the place in France where their remains were first found. The Cro-Magnons flourished between 40,000 and 10,000 years ago. They were taller and more slender than the Neanderthals, stood upright, and, most important, had brains better able to make decisions and adapt to change. They made tools from animal horns and bones. They made fishhooks and harpoons for fishing; needles for sewing clothing of leather and animal skins; and knives and bows and arrows for hunting. They left striking examples of their art in caves in France and Spain. Some believe that the more intelligent Cro-Magnons were better able to survive the great Ice Ages than the Neanderthals, who disappeared about 35,000 years ago. During the Ice Ages, the climate was much colder and drier than it is today. Much of northern Europe and North America was buried under great sheets of ice.

About 12,000 years ago, the last of the Ice Ages ended. The world's climate slowly grew warmer, the ice retreated, and the landscape and animals changed. Up to this time, humans had been *nomads*—they had no settled homelands. Instead, people lived in small groups that followed and hunted the huge animals, such as mammoths and bison, living at the time, and they gathered wild grains, fruits, and nuts.

By about 10,000 years ago, many human groups had settled down and were growing their own food. Some of these farmers had also begun to *domesticate* (care for and raise) once-wild animals such as cattle and sheep. These early agricultural groups settled in fertile lands that had good supplies of water. Later in this unit we will tell about the lives of some of the people who settled in the river valleys of the Middle East, Africa, and Asia.

The hunters did not all turn immediately to farming or raising animals. Wild animals were still available, and hunting appealed to many people. The man in our story seems determined to remain a hunter. But his friends have found new ways of caring for themselves and their families. As you read the story, ask yourself what you would do if you were faced with the same circumstances as Ogg the hunter.

## East Africa

My name is Ogg, and I travel a long distance each day to find my friends. I go back and forth every day, and I have been at it for a long time. I have seen many things and goats. Twice I have been to the mountains.

I continue to hunt for a living. My friends have given up. They keep animals. They live in the mountains. The grass is good.

One day, while returning from the field of my friends, I saw a woman in the hot sun. She called out to me. "Life is so hard and dangerous," she said.

"I would rather hunt than live like this," I answered.

"Look how well we live," she said. "We have a supply of meat, milk, vegetables, and everything we need."

"But you are paying a high price for it," I said.

"What price?"

"You are paying with your time tending to your crops. You have to come and go as you please."

"Your old friends are happy with you," she said.

"We are not afraid, nor are we alone. We help one another. Some of us make tools. Still others make clothes. We live with people in other villages. They come and join us, Ogg. You will see."

I answered, "If I settle down, I will have to live according to the rules of the group. The only rules I have to follow are the rules of the group. It is exciting. I even enjoy the life of the group."

I left Ulana and continued my journey. I returned from the hunt every day.



*Prehistoric hunters in France, c. 5000 B.C., painted scenes of their adventures on the walls of caves.*

## East Africa 7500 B.C.

man groups had settled down and these farmers had also begun to animals such as cattle and sheep. fertile lands that had good supplies out the lives of some of the people ddle East, Africa, and Asia. diately to farming or raising ani- and hunting appealed to many peo- nined to remain a hunter. But his for themselves and their families. t you would do if you were faced e hunter.

My name is Ogg, and I am a hunter. I usually walk a great distance each day to find my food. The animals often fight back, and I have been attacked and bitten many times by deer and goats. Twice I have come close to losing my life to lions.

I continue to hunt for a living, even though many of my friends have given up. They have learned to plant crops and keep animals. They live in houses made of brick, stone, and grass.

One day, while returning from the hunt, I happened to pass the field of my friends Ulana and Lute. Ulana was working in the hot sun. She called out, "Ogg, how tired you look! Your life is so hard and dangerous!"

"I would rather hunt than work in a hot, dusty field," I answered.

"Look how well we live," Ulana replied. "We have a steady supply of meat, milk, vegetables, and wool. In fact, we have everything we need."

"But you are paying a high price for these goods," I answered.

"What price?"

"You are paying with your freedom. You must spend all of your time tending to your crops and animals. You are not free to come and go as you please."

"Your old friends are happy to live this way," she responded. "We are not afraid, nor are we hungry. We all work together and help one another. Some till the soil. Others care for the animals. Still others make weapons and tools. We trade goods with people in other villages. You should give up the hunt and join us, Ogg. You will have a better life."

I answered, "If I settle down and become a farmer, I will have to live according to the rules of the group. On the hunt, the only rules I have to follow are my own. Besides, the hunt is exciting. I even enjoy the danger. No, I will not join with your group."

I left Ulana and continued to hunt for my food. But last week I returned from the hunt empty-handed every day. I was cold,

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tired, and hungry. For the first time, I wanted the comfort and security that Ulana and her people had. I decided to go and talk to Lute and Ulana.

## Postscript

The people in our first story had bows and arrows for hunting, and knives and tools for farming. They built houses of stone, mud brick, and grasses, and made their clothing from animal skins. But they did not have the two essentials of civilization: a written language and cities. Everything these people knew was told to them by their parents or by other people. All human knowledge was passed along from one generation to the next by this *oral tradition*. It would take thousands of years of living in communities before written languages and cities evolved.

## QUESTIONS FOR REVIEW

1. How did the Cro-Magnons differ from the Neanderthals?
2. How did the lives of nomads and farmers differ?
3. Why did Ogg refuse to change his life-style from hunter to farmer?
4. Why did Ulana feel that her way of life was better than Ogg's?
5. Why did Ogg finally decide to talk to Lute and Ulana?

## UNDERSTANDING THE STORY

- A. Write T for each statement that is true and F for each statement that is false.
1. No one knows exactly when modern humans first appeared on earth.
  2. The Neanderthals first appeared in France about one million years ago.
  3. The Cro-Magnons left examples of their art in caves in Spain and France.
  4. During the Ice Ages, the climate was much colder and drier than it is today.
  5. About 10,000 years ago, all hunters became farmers.
  6. All of Ogg's friends were hunters.
  7. Ulana encouraged Ogg to become a farmer like Lute and herself.
  8. Ogg often wrote letters to his friends.

- B. Assume that you have the chance to become a farmer like Ulana. Which would you choose?

## ACTIVITIES

1. Imagine that you are a reporter. What questions would you ask to find out his life?
2. You interview Ulana. What questions would you ask?
3. Compare your life in the United States with the life of Ulana.
4. Which person in the story would you like to be? Why? What would you do in your city or town? Why? What would you do to adjust to your way of life?
5. Using your school or local library, find out about the animals that Ulana and Ogg would have used.

# 2. How to in Su

Over 9,000 years ago, people began to settle along the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, in the region of Mesopotamia. (Today, this country is divided between Iraq and Syria.) One of the earliest civilizations of this land were the Syrian and Arabian peoples. The mountains of Persia were the eastern region of Mesopotamia was the eastern region of the Fertile Crescent. One area of settlement was called Sumerians.

Through the years the Sumerians built levees along the banks to control the flow of the rivers. They also dug and deepened some of the ditches in the land and created an irrigation system that made it possible to grow large quantities of land. The farmers grew large quantities of grain.